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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A combination drinking container and straw comprising:

a container having a wall enclosing a chamber, a bottom, an open top, and ~~at least one straw retaining member~~ a groove formed in said wall; and

a straw disposed in the ~~at least one retaining member~~ groove, the straw having a first end which is in fluid communication with the chamber of the container and a second drinking end which extends upwardly from the container so that liquid may be sipped through from the container while the straw is disposed in the ~~at least one retaining member~~ groove, wherein at least part of the configuration of the straw is defined by the configuration of the ~~retaining member~~ groove.

2. (Original) The combination of claim 1 in which at least a portion of a pathway traversed by the straw is spaced from the container wall.

3. (Original) The combination of claim 2 wherein said portion is a loop.

4. (Original) The combination of claim 3 wherein said loop forms a handle.

5. (Original) The combination of claim 3 further comprising:

a lid for closing the top of the container, the lid having an aperture formed therethrough, said loop extending through said aperture to form a hinge.

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6. (Currently Amended) A combination drinking container and straw comprising:

a container having a wall, a bottom, an open top, and ~~at least one straw retaining member~~ a groove formed in the wall; and

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a straw disposed in the ~~at least one retaining member~~ groove, the straw having a first end which extends into the container and a second drinking end which extends upwardly from the container so that liquid may be sipped through from the container while the straw is disposed in the ~~at least one retaining member~~ groove, wherein at least a part of the straw is held in position with respect to the container by the ~~retaining member~~ groove.

7. (Original) The combination of claim 6 in which at least a portion of a pathway traversed by the straw is spaced from the container wall.

8. (Original) The combination of claim 7 wherein said portion is a loop.

9. (Original) The combination of claim 8 wherein said loop forms a handle.

10. (Original) The combination of claim 8 further comprising:

a lid for closing the top of the container, the lid having an aperture formed therethrough, said loop extending through said aperture to form a hinge.

11. (Currently Amended) A combination drinking container and straw comprising:

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a container having an outer wall, a bottom, an open top, and ~~at least one straw retaining member~~ a groove disposed in an outer surface of the outer wall;

a lid for closing the top of the container, the lid having an aperture formed therethrough;

a straw disposed in the ~~at least one retaining member~~ groove, the straw having a first end which extends into the container to terminate proximate the closed bottom thereof and a second end which extends upwardly from the container so that liquid may be sipped through from the container while the straw is disposed in the ~~at least one retaining member~~ groove, wherein the configuration of the straw is defined by the configuration of the retaining member; and

a loop formed by the straw proximate the container top such that, when said straw extends through said aperture, said loop hinges said lid onto said combination even when said lid is removed from said container.

12. (Previously Amended) A combination drinking container and straw comprising:

a container having an open top, a lid configured to fit on said container to close said open top, said lid including an aperture formed therethrough, and a straw, a first portion of which extends from said container and through said lid aperture and a second portion of which is attached to said container and terminates in a sipping end, wherein said straw functions as a hinge for said lid, retaining said lid when said lid is removed from said cup.

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